

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 127858

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM LONDON DTD 20 MAY 1978 QTE

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC, MOPS, PINS, CG, UK

SUBJ: EVACUATION OF EXPATRIATES FROM KOLWEZI (SITREP 1)

REF: STATE 127803

1. ALAN MUNRO, HEAD OF FCO EAST AFRICA DEPARTMENT AND DIRECTOR OF HMG EMERGENCY TASK FORCE ON KOLWEZI EVACUATION, HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON BRITISH EVACUATION EFFORT AS OF 1200Z MAY 20.

2. UK OPERATING AS ADJUNCT TO BELGIAN EVACUATION EFFORT, PROVIDING SECOND ECHELON LIFT FROM KAMINA TO LUSAKA FOR CASUALTIES OR OTHERS WHO PREFER EVACUATION BY BRITISH RATHER THAN BELGIAN MEANS OR ROUTE. BELGIANS RESPONSIBLE FOR INITIAL LIFT FROM KOLWEZI TO KAMINA, AND BRITISH HAVE NO INTENTION OF GOING INTO KOLWEZI.
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SATISFACTORY COMMUNICATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH BELGIAN FORCES IN ZAIRE VIA EUCOM STUTTGART.

3. RAF HAS DESPATCHED THREE C-130S AND ONE VC-10 WITH TWO COMPLETE MEDICAL TEAMS TO LUSAKA WITH FULL COOPERATION ZAMBIAN AUTHORITIES AND AFTER OBTAINING PROMPT OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCES FROM EGYPT AND SUDAN. C-130S

STILL ON WAY, BUT VC-10 HAS BEEN TO LUSAKA AND IS EXPECTED MOMENTARILY AT KAMINA TO PICK UP FIRST LOAD OF PATIENTS/PASSENGERS FOR WHAT IS EXPECTED TO BE REGULAR SHUTTLE BETWEEN KAMINA AND LUSAKA IN OPERATION THIS AFTERNOON, TOMORROW AND AS LONG AS NECESSARY. FRENCH AND BELGIANS IN KOLWEZI REPORTING "SUBSTANTIAL" CASUALTIES BUT SO FAR ONLY FORTY-FOUR CONFIRMED EUROPEAN DEAD. ARRIVAL OF VC-10 IN KAMINA WILL PROVIDE FIRST INDEPENDENT BRITISH SITREP.

4. MEDICAL FACILITIES AND EMERGENCY HOUSING IN LUSAKA REPORTEDLY INADEQUATE. IF INITIAL SHUTTLE RUNS DEMONSTRATE NEED, UK WILL PROBABLY PROVIDE FIELD HOSPITAL AT LUSAKA AIRPORT. STREATOR UNQTE VANCE

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